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ARTICLES AND COVENANT  
OF THE  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
GRAFTON, MASS.

[ 1828 ]





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ARTICLES AND COVENANT,

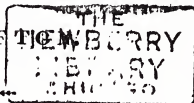
OF THE

Grafton

CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH OF CHRIST,

IN GRAFTON



I. There is but one God, the Creator, preserver and governor of the universe, possessed of every natural and moral perfection, whom it is the duty of all intelligent creatures to love and obey.

Deut. 6: 4. 1 Cor. 8: 4—6. Heb. 3: 4. Neh. 9: 6. Prov. 16: 33. Dan. 4: 34, 35. Job 11: 7—9. Ex. 34: 6, 7. Micah. 6: 8.

II. The mode of the Divine existence is such as lays a foundation for a distinction into three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and these three are one in essence and equal in power and glory.

Matt. 28: 19. 1 John 5: 7. 2 Cor. 13: 14. Gen. 1: 26, 3: 22 and 11: 7. Matt. 7: 21, 10: 32, 33 and 11: 27. John 8: 19, 54, 58. Matt. 8: 29, 14: 33, 26: 63 and 27: 43. Isa. 9: 6. John 1: 1—3. Heb. 1: 3—8. 1 John 5: 20. 1 Tim. 3: 16. John 20: 28. Heb. 13: 8. Rev. 1: 8 and 2: 8. Eph. 4: 10. Matt. 18: 20 and 28: 20. John 3: 13. Rev. 2: 23. John 2: 24, 25 and 21: 17. Heb. 1: 6. John 9: 38. Luke 24: 52. Acts 7: 59. John 2: 19. Rom. 8: 11. Job 26: 13 and 30: 4. John 14: 16, 17. Acts 5: 34. Rom. 8: 26, 27. 2 Cor. 3: 17. Gal. 5: 22, 23.



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III. The Bible is the word of God; it was written by holy men, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, and is a perfect rule of faith and practice.

2 Tim. 3: 16. 2 Pet. 1: 21. Isa. 8: 20. Matt. 20: 29. Ps. 19: 7—10. Acts 17: 11. Jer. 8: 9.

IV. The providence of God is universal and particular. He has, for his own glory, foreordained whatsoever comes to pass, working all things after the counsel of his own will.

Matt. 10: 29—31. Heb. 1: 3. Rom. 11: 36. Neh. 9: 6. Ps. 36: and 104: 19—21. Dan. 4: 35. Eph. 1: 11. Eccl. 3: 14. Rom. 9: 17—23. Phil. 2: 13. Rev. 17: 17 and 6: 11. Isa. 43: 7, 48: 11, 45: 7 and 46: 10. Prov. 16: 4, 19: 21, 21: 1 and 16: 1—9. Job 23: 13, 14. Acts 2: 23 and 15: 18.

V. God created Adam perfectly holy, and constituted him the representative head of all his posterity, suspending their moral character upon his probationary conduct.

Gen. 1: 26, 27. Eccl. 7: 29. Rom. 5: 12—19. 1 Cor. 15: 21, 22.

VI. In consequence of the fall of Adam, his posterity, being partakers of his nature and connected with him as their federal head, are wholly estranged from God, are under the curse of the law, and deserve eternal death.

Gen. 2: 17. Rom. 5: 12—20. chaps. 1, 2 and 3 and 8: 7, 8. 2 Cor. 5: 14. Ezek. 18: 4. Gal. 3: 10. Eccl. 9: 3. Jer. 17: 9.

VII. The Lord Jesus Christ became incarnate, and by his obedience, suffering and



death, has made an atonement for sin adequate to the wants of the whole world; although they only are savingly benefitted by it who exercise faith in the Redeemer, and accept of the salvation freely offered to them in the Gospel.—He also rose from the dead, ascended to the Father and ever liveth to make intercession for his people.

Gal. 4 : 4. Matt. 1 : 25 and 28 : 1—10. Luke 1 : 31—35 and 2 : 7. Rom. 9 : 5, 5 : 6, 8, 19, 3 : 26, 4 : 24 and 8 : 11, 34. John 12 : 13, 14, 3 : 15, 16, 18, 5 : 24, 6 : 29, 35, 7 : 38, 13 : 33, 14 : 2—12—16—28 and 16 : 28. 2 Cor. 5 : 14, 15, 8 : 9. Gal. 3 : 13. Eph. 1 : 7. 1 Pet. 1 : 18—21. 1 Tim. 2 : 5, 6. Heb. 2 : 9, 7 : 25 and 10 : 38, 39. 1 John 2 : 2, 5 : 10—13. Mark 16 : 16. Acts 10 : 43, 13 : 39, 16 : 31 and 1 : 9. Job 19 : 25. Ps. 16 : 10. 1 Cor. 15 : 4, 13—20. Isa. 53 : 12.

VIII. The efficacious influences of the Holy Spirit are essentially necessary to renew and sanctify the heart, by the application of the atonement of Christ; and they who are thus renewed shall be preserved from final apostacy, be made meet for heaven and finally be conducted to eternal glory; while all the unrenewed and unsanctified will be left to perish.

John 3 : 3—8. 1 : 13 and 10 : 28. 2 Thess. 2 : 13. Rom. 1 : 24, 26, 28, 8 : 29—39 and 9 : 17, 18, 21, 22. 1 Cor. 6 : 11, and 1 : 8. Eph. 4 : 23, 24. Jer. 31 : 3 and 30 : 11, 40. Heb. 13 : 20, 21. 2 Sam. 23 : 5. Heb. 7 : 25. Luke 22 : 32. 1 John 3 : 9, and 2 : 27. 1 Pet. 1 : 5, and 2 : 8. Phil. 1 : 6. Matt. 11 : 25, 26. 2 Tim. 2 : 20.

IX. Jesus Christ has a visible church in the world into which none in the sight of God but real believers, and none in the sight of men but visible believers have right of admission.



Matt. 16 : 18, and 18 : 17. Acts 2 : 47. 1 Cor. 1 : 2. 2 Cor. 6 : 14—18, and 1 : 1. 1 Thess. 1 : 1—3. Ps. 50 : 16.

**X.** Christ has appointed two special ordinances in his church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Adult believers, who have not been baptized, and the children of professing believers are the proper subjects of baptism. None but the cordial friends of Christ ought to partake of the Lord's Supper; and every church ought to require a profession of holy love to the Lord Jesus Christ of all whom they admit to their communion.

Matt. 28 : 19, and 26 : 26—29. Gen. 17 : 10. Rom. 6 : 11 and 11 : 17—24. Acts 15 : 1, 24, 29, 2 : 39, 16 : 15, 33 and 8 : 37. Gal. 5 : 1, 2, 3 : 27—29. Luke 18 : 15, 16. 1 Cor. 1 : 16, and 7 : 14.

**XI.** There will be a resurrection of the dead both of the righteous and the wicked; and also a final judgment when all will receive according to their works—and the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.

1 Cor. 15 : 12—23, 51, 52. 1 Thess. 4 : 17. Job 19 : 26, 27. Acts 24 : 15. John 5 : 27—29. Dan. 12 : 2. Matt. 25 : 31—46. 2 Cor. 5 : 10. Matt. 24 : 36, 42—44.

**XII.** In cases of offence, or scandal, christian discipline should be exercised with all humility and meekness.

Matt. 18 : 15—17, 5 : 23, 24.

Note. Though no human compositions are of divine authority, yet we look upon the confession of Faith and shorter catechism agreed upon by the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, to be an excellent system of the doctrines of our holy religion.





## COVENANT

— 1820262

You do now most solemnly declare, that the Lord Jehovah, Father, Son and Holy Ghost is your God, that you will fear Him, cleave to Him in love, and serve Him heartily and entirely; giving up yourself to Him to be His in all things, to be disposed of and directed as He shall choose, that you may always enjoy communion with Him according to the revealed will of God, as a member of Christ's mystical body.

You promise to adhere to the truth of Christ, and to vindicate it as God may give you ability, making the Holy Scriptures your standard; and by God's grace to maintain a very strict watch over your own heart, seeking to obtain through the operation of the Holy Spirit the mortification of all your unholy passions, worldly desires or disorderly affections whereby you may be withdrawn from the living God.

You promise to sanctify the Sabbath, calling it a delight, the holy of the Lord honourable, guarding yourself throughout the day from worldly thoughts, cares, words and works.

You promise, also, to educate all persons who may be under your domestic government in the knowledge and fear of God, instructing them in the doctrines and precepts of His holy word, and praying with and for them.

You moreover bind yourself faithfully to improve all your opportunities of worshipping God by attending upon the public means of grace; by reading his holy word; by secret prayer and by holding communion with His church in both the seals, baptism and the Lord's Supper.



And you promise to walk in love towards all the members of this church, aiming at mutual edification ; visiting, exhorting and comforting as opportunity may offer ; admonishing any brother or sister who may offend ; exercising a charitable temper towards all who manifest genuine repentance ; not divulging private offences irregularly ; and peaceably submitting yourself to the discipline appointed by Christ in his church for offenders.

Thus you covenant and promise in humble dependence upon the grace of God, to assist and enable you to perform your vows.

We do now receive you as a member in full communion with the church of Christ, and as such declare that you have a right to all the ordinances of His house, and that we the members of this church are under covenant engagements to watch over you in love.

And now may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen.



# LIST OF MEMBERS,

JUNE 1828.

Rev. MOSES C. SEARLE, *ordained Pastor, Sept. 21, 1826.*

## MALES.

### ADMITTED.

1786	Timothy Meriam
1796	Rev. John Miles
1810	Albert Stone
"	Nathaniel Adams
"	Joseph Goddard
1817	Stephen Holbrook
"	Ebenezer Wheeler
"	Joseph Meriam Jr.
1820	John Hector
"	Tarrant Meriam
1821	Joseph Meriam
1822	John Kimball

### ADMITTED.

1823	Corning Fairbanks
"	Aaron Kimball Jr.
"	Benjamin Willard Fay
1824	Joseph Meriam, 3d
1827	Perley Batcheller
"	Samuel Green
1828	Moses C. Hayden
"	Timothy Meriam Jr.
"	Thomas Tucker
"	Jonathan Hayden
"	Otis Adams



## FEMALES.

## ADMITTED.

—	Elizabeth Miller
1770	Sarah Brigham
1775	Persis Fay
"	Mercy Hayden
"	Anne Prentice
"	Mary Batcheller
1783	Elizabeth Stow
1886	Sally Meriam
1789	Molly Kimball
1799	Polly Miles
1801	Polly Goddard
1804	Susanna Brigham
1805	Sarah Ellick
1807	Patience Brigham
"	Lucy Adams
"	Susanna Warren
1810	Martha Wood
"	Lydia Brigham
"	Hannah Harrington
"	Sally B. Stone
"	Sabra Sibley
"	Mary Adams
"	Olive Adams
"	Elizabeth Harrington
"	Anna Brigham
1811	Eunice Cutler
1816	Delphia Warren
1817	Priscilla Prentice
"	Eunice Kimball
1820	Susannah Golding
"	Eunice Dunsmore
1821	Sabra Leland
"	Tabitha Wadsworth
"	Sally Meriam
"	Martha Adams
"	Patty Adams

## ADMITTED.

1821	Sally Davis
"	Anna Meriam
1822	Melinda Whipple
"	Priscilla Putnam
"	Eunice Hayden
"	Betsey Kimball
1823	Georgianna M. Keith
1824	Mary C. Warren
"	Hannah Read
"	Polly Read
"	Diadama Brigham
1825	Louisa Keith
1826	Mercy Wheeler
"	Elizabeth Prentice
"	Sally Batcheller
1827	Lois Sibley
"	Nancy Sibley
"	Damaris H. Rich
"	Adeline Aldrich
"	Harriet Gary
"	Nancy Andrews
"	Sarah Leland
"	Lucy Wood
"	Esther Clark
1828	Elizabeth Holbrook
"	Lucretia M. Tucker
"	Lucy Meriam
"	Caty Mason
"	Harriet Tucker
"	Sally Hayden
"	Susannah Brigham
"	Susan Wheelock
"	Sylvia Adams
"	Susan Greenwood
"	Mary Ann Searle

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